Young, John R.

[National Education Assoc.]

[233 Broadway]

1916

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GENERAL COMMITTEE
TO ARRANGE FOR THE
CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK CITY
JULY 3-8, 1916

TREASURER
ALVIN W. KRECH, ESQ.
PRESIDENT EQUITABLE TRUST COMPANY
37 WALL STREET

SECRETARY
JOHN R. YOUNG
MANAGER CONVENTION BUREAU
THE MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK
233 BROADWAY

NEW YORK CITY,
May 9, 1916.

American Numismatic Society,
156th and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Sirs:-

The Committee direct me to ask if you will not be kind enough to prepare an article of say 200 words descriptive of the American Numismatic Society, for publication in the special Guide Book, which is to be issued by the Committee for distribution to educators and teachers attending the N. E. A. Convention.

We have available for use in this publication matter relating to your great library. In the article for which we ask it is desired that your museum be properly described.

Trusting that you may be able to grant this request and that you will place this material in my hands at the earliest possible date, I am,

Very respectfully,

John R. Young

JRY/RCL

Secretary.

May 10th, 1916.

Mr. John E. Young, Secretary,
Merchants Convention Bureau,
Merchants Association of New York,
233 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of May 9th at hand requesting the two hundred word discription of the museum of our Society. I will herewith give an outline of the more important facts, and you can dress it over to suit yourself:-

The American Numismatic Society was founded in 1858, its objects being the collection and preservation of coins and medals with an investigation into their history and other subjects connected therewith. Since 1908, when the Society erected a building of its own at 156th Street & Broadway, the museum or displaying feature, has been made prominent. This is the only numismatic society in the world with its own building devoted exclusively to numismatics. The building is made of reinforced concrete, and is constructed on the idea of a bank vault so that the utmost security can be given to its own collections as well as loan collections, which have been shown from time to time. Special exhibitions have been held in different years embracing all phases of numismatics. The Society's own collection consists of about one hundred thousand pieces. But as it is impossible to display all of these at one time, representative selections, generally with a view of showing those of especial and topical interest, are continually being placed on exhibition. The space devoted for these is on the main floor and the gallery. There is generally on display representative groups of:-

Medals illustrating the artistic side comprising the work of the best foreign and American artists. These pieces, both large and small, comprise some of the finest products of art in metal.

Historic medals. These date back to the Rennaissance, and are historical documents full of absorbing interest. The present exhibition consists of medals issued in Germany, France and Belgium since the outbreak of the present war, and number several hundred pieces. Some of these medals have been much heralded in the newspapers of late.

Coins. Generally a representative collection from the earliest times to the present day are shown comprising Greek, Roman, mediaeval and modern, European, American and Oriental. Coins of the waring nations have formed the chief exhibits of these recently. A small interesting exhibition consists of the coins struck in Mexico since the present revolution.

Paper Money. At times a large and comprehensive exhibition of this phase of numismatics is shown, both old and modern.

Insignia and Decorations. These beautiful bits make a very attractive display lighting up the exhibition hall with their bright colors and gaudy silk ribbons. The collection of these housed in this building is probably as fine as any in existence, comprising as it does most of the orders of all of the different countries. Especial interest has been attached to these of late as many of the decorations shown here are like those that have been awarded during the present war, such as the Victoria Cross and Distinguished Service Order of England, the Medaille Militaire of France, and the Iron Crosses of Germany. Three of the latter given out during the present war are on exhibition. The collection contains a complete series of our own governmental medals, including those given by Congress to our soldiers and sailors, and known as the Medal of Honor.

Another important and interesting series are known as the Indian Peace Medals. These were given by our government to friendly Indians generally at the conclusion of some treaty, and date from the first presidency of Washington in 1789, through Harrison's administration. There is probably the best collection of these now on view that has ever been assembled.

I am sending you, under separate cover, one of our historical catalogues and beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

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233 BROADWAY

NEW YORK CITY,

May 23, 1916.

American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 156th Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

I am in receipt of a copy of"Medals and Publications of the American Numismatic Society with an Historical Sketch", which evidently has been forwarded in response to me recent letter asking if you would not be good enough to place in my hands an article properly descriptive of the Museum for insertion in the Special Guide Book, which the Committee is about to issue for the N. E. A. Convention. While the publication you send me is of undoubted interest, it does not contain the material which the Committee desires. May I ask therefore if you will not be good enough to have some one of your officers prepare the article in question and send it to me at the earliest convenient date.

Very truly yours,

John R. Young

JRY/RCL

Secretary.

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233 BROADWAY

NEW YORK CITY,

May 25, 1916.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 156th Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Accept our thanks for your favor of the 23rd and for the excellent article contained therein descriptive of your Society. Strangely enough your earlier letter failed to reach the hands of the writer.

Very truly yours,

John R. Young

Secretary.

JRY/RCL